

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 LAB-04

SIL-01 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TT/MA:SVSMITH:EW

APPROVED BY EB/TT/MA:JPSTEINMETZ

FMC:WJSMITH

NEA/INS:ATHIBAUT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EWWT, CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA-U.S. SHIPPING RELATIONS: CENTRAL
FREIGHT BUREAU MANAGER'S VISIT

REF: COLOMBO 3337

1. AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE, SPELDEWINDE AND SRI LANKA
EMBOFF E.V. MELDER CALLED ON W.J. SMITH, DEPUTY MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION ON AFTER-
NOON OCT. 24. DEPTOFFS THIBAUT AND S.V. SMITH (EB/TT/MA)
ALSO ATTENDED.

2. SPELDEWINDE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON HIS DISCUSSIONS
EARLIER THAT WEEK IN NEW YORK WITH CEYLON/USA CONFERENCE
(CUSAC) AND REPRESENTATIVES ITS MEMBER LINES. THRUST OF
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SPELDEWINDE'S REPORT WAS THAT CONFERENCE, REALIZING NOW

THAT CENTRAL FREIGHT BUREAU'S OPERATIONS ARE PREDICATED ON PRAGMATIC RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, IS NOW DEALING WITH CFB IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE FEW OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN CFB AND CUSAC AND THOSE THAT DID EXIST WERE BEING HANDLED IN AMICABLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUSINESS-LIKE FASHION.

3. SURPRISED AND SKEPTICAL AT THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SPELDEWINDE'S REPORT AND THE SITUATION A YEAR AGO, DEPTOFF CHECKED WITH HAMM, SECRETARY OF CUSAC. HAMM REPORTED ALSO THAT CONFERENCE'S RELATIONS WITH CFB WERE BEING CONDUCTED IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT ALMOST COMPLETE TURNABOUT IN POSTURE OF BOTH PARTIES REFLECTS REALIZATION BY BOTH SIDES OVER THE YEAR THAT THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COOPERATE IN FULFILLING THEIR MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MOVING CEYLON/USA TRADE. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES MAY REMAIN, BUT AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, IT APPEARS THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES AS DO ARISE WILL BE SOLVED WITHOUT THE DIVISIVE RECRIMINATIONS OF A YEAR AGO.

5. ONE ISSUE OF INTEREST FOR THE FUTURE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT GSL MAY INITIATE SRI LANKAN FLAG SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES. APPARENTLY SRI LANKANS ARE CONSIDERING THIS BUT ONLY AS A LONG-RANGE PLAN AND NOT AS SOMETHING TO BE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR OR SO. KISSINGER

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